

NEW JERSEY:

A *Cornucopia* of *Delight*

Ever wonder why New Jersey is called the Garden State? Every autumn, our local farms produce some of the most delectable and delicious fruits and vegetables. Better yet, visit one of these farms to pick your own harvest straight from the farms fields!

ROADSIDE STANDS AND U-PICK-IT FARMS:

As one of the top ten fruit and vegetable producers in the country, the state grows more than 100 different kinds of fruits and vegetables. During the fall, you can bite into vine ripe tomatoes, juicy corn, eggplant, grapes, broccoli, sweet peaches and 30 different varieties of crisp apples. Visitors looking for fresh produce can pick their own at Battleview Orchards in Freehold, Hallock's U-Pick Farm in New Egypt, Johnson's Corner Farm in Medford and Conte Farm in Tabernacle. Roadside markets such as Abma's Farm in Wyckoff, Dutch Hollow Farm Stand in Bridgewater and A Taste Of The Garden State in Bridgeton provide a wealth of fresh produce for locals and other visitors. Or, get your daily consumption of fruits and vegetables at the state's community farmers markets located throughout the 21 counties including Trenton Farmers' Market in Trenton, Collingswood Farmer's Market in Collingswood, Montclair Farmers' Market in Montclair and Bernardsville Farmers' Market in Bernardsville. Visit the Jersey Fresh Web site at <http://www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh/searches/pyo.htm> for a list of New Jersey farms.

CHEESEMAKING:

For something a little out of the ordinary, learn the art of cheese making at Valley Shepherd Creamery in Long Valley. This old-fashioned creamery provides a unique farm experience on 120 beautiful acres in Morris County. The farm prides itself in being able to educate and involve the visitor in daily life on a real working sheep dairy, creating over a dozen of sheep and mixed-milk artisan cheeses. During autumn, take a fall wagon ride to view the hundreds of wheels of different cheeses aging to perfection in the creamery's aging cave. Or, if you want to be a bit more interactive, take a cheese making class -- remaining dates in 2006 include Sunday, October 15th and Sunday, November 12th. For more information visit <http://www.valleysherpherd.com/>.



Tucked in Vernon in the northwest corner of New Jersey is Bobolink Dairy, home of artisanal cheeses and rustic wood-fired breads. The dairy is situated on 200 acres of pasture, with several barns, a farmhouse and an apprentice house. Bobolink is firing the oven seven times each week, and is baking breads daily from Tuesday or Wednesday to Sunday. There are also public cheese tastings on the farm. Learn the more about the artisanal cheesemaking process and wood-fired baking at a seminar held at the Creamery. Bread and cheesemaking classes are scheduled for October 1; October 15; October 29 and November 5. For more information visit <http://www.cowsoutside.com/>.

NEW JERSEY IS WINE COUNTRY:

You might have missed this fact on the grapevine – New Jersey has more than two dozen wineries located throughout the state – many of which offer visitor tours. Among the Garden State's best kept secrets, New Jersey's wineries host visitors just about any weekend or for one of the many wine festivals that are scheduled through October and other special events throughout the year. More than 40 different varieties of wines are produced by New Jersey wineries – including dry, semi-dry, sparkling and dessert wines.

Twelve wine trails have been established to encourage travel between wineries. The Northwest Wine Trail includes the Alba Vineyards in Finesville, the Westfall Winery in Montague and the Four Sisters Winery in Belvidere. The Hunterdon County Wine Trail will lead visitors to the Hopewell Valley Vineyard in Pennington, Unionville Vineyards and Amwell Valley Vineyard in Ringoes and Tomasello Winery Outlet in Lambertville. The Delaware Wine Trail consists of Alba Vineyard in Milford, Tomasello Winery Outlet in Lambertville, Unionville Vineyards and Hopewell Valley Vineyard.

Mid-State Wine Trail A is comprised of Silver Decoy Winery in Robbinsville, Cream Ridge Winery in Cream Ridge and Valenzano Winery in Shamong. Mid-State Wine Trail B contains Silver Decoy Winery, Cream Ridge Winery and Four JG's Vineyards in Colts Neck. Wine connoisseurs can try the East West Wine Trail featuring Amalthea Cellars in Atco, Tomasello Winery in Hammonton and Renault Winery in Egg Harbor City.

The South Central A Wine Trail includes the Cream Ridge Winery, Tomasello Winery and Renault Winery. Another wine trail for visitors to explore is the South Central B Wine Trail. This trail includes the Cream Ridge Winery, Valenzano Winery in Shamong and Tomasello Winery. On the South Wine Trail, visitors can taste some of the state's red and white wines from the Valenzano Winery, Tomasello Winery, Bellview Winery in Landisville and Di Matteo Vineyards in Hammonton. The Southeast Wine Trail includes the Tomasello Winery, Sylvan Farms in Germania and Renault Winery. If you're near the southern shore, try the Coastal Wine Trail consisting of Renault Winery, Cape May Winery in Cape May and Turdo Vineyard and Winery in North Cape May. The final wine trail for visitors and residents of New Jersey to explore, the Southern Most Wine Trail, includes Heritage Vineyards of Richwood in Richwood, and Bellview Winery.

For a complete clearinghouse of wine information, guests can visit the Garden State Wine Growers Association's Web site at www.newjerseywines.com.


New Jersey



NEW JERSEY:

Downhome Recipes featuring *Jersey* Fresh Produce

BAKED SWEET POTATO CROQUETTES

½ cup butter (2 sticks) divided
½ cup Jersey Fresh onion, finely diced
¼ tsp salt
1 cup dry bread crumbs
1 medium Jersey Fresh tomato, peeled and chopped fine
3 lbs Jersey Fresh sweet potatoes, baked, peeled, and mashed
½ cup Jersey Fresh celery, finely diced
1 TBS Jersey Fresh parsley, chopped fine
1/8 tsp mace
1 Jersey Fresh egg, slightly beaten

Bake sweet potatoes in preheated 350 degree oven 40 minutes or until soft. Cool, peel, and mash. Melt ¼ cup of butter in skillet, add celery and onion, cook until tender. Turn into mixing bowl. Add mashed sweet potatoes, tomatoes, parsley, salt, and mace and mix well. Shape into 8 croquettes. Melt remaining ¼ cup of butter, mix with bread crumbs. Dip croquettes in beaten egg, then roll in bread crumbs. Place on baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for about 25 minutes.

Contributed by: Beth Pool, Mickleton, NJ

APPLE SQUARES

1 cup flour
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 cup butter (½ stick)
1 tsp vanilla
2/3 cups Jersey Fresh apples, peeled & chopped (try blueberries in season)
1/2 cup chopped nuts (omit nuts if using blueberries)
1/4 cup cinnamon sugar (½ tsp cinnamon to 3 tbsp. sugar)
1 Jersey Fresh egg
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/4 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp baking powder

Melt butter in saucepan. Remove from heat. Add sugars, egg and vanilla. Mix with a wooden spoon until smooth. Add dry ingredients. Add apples and nuts. Spread in a buttered 8 in. X 8 in. pan. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Contributed by: Pamela Wildrick, Long Valley, NJ


New Jersey

Recipes

Continued

AUTUMN CHOWDER

*2 TBS olive oil
1 cup chicken broth
½ tsp pepper
1 cup Jersey Fresh carrots, sliced
2½ cups Jersey Fresh potatoes, peeled & diced
3 cups Jersey Fresh corn, cooked & cut from the cob*

*3 cups milk
2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
1 cup Jersey Fresh onion, finely chopped
2 tbsp. flour
½ tsp salt*

Heat oil in a Dutch oven. Add onion and cook until tender. Stir in chicken broth, potatoes, and carrots. Simmer until potatoes are tender, about 20 minutes. Stir in milk, corn, pepper, and salt, and heat until simmering. Mix cheese and flour and add to soup mixture, stirring constantly until cheese is melted. Serves 8.

Contributed by: Elizabeth Blazejewski, Trenton, NJ

CRANBERRY CAKE

*1 8oz. package cream cheese at room temperature
1 cup butter at room temperature (2 sticks)
2 cups Jersey Fresh cranberries, coarsely chopped
½ cup chopped pecans or walnuts
2¼ cups all purpose flour, divided
½ tsp. salt*

*1½ cups sugar
4 Jersey Fresh eggs
1½ tsp. baking powder
Confectioner's sugar
1½ tsp. vanilla extract*

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, butter, sugar, and vanilla until smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Combine 2 cups flour, baking powder and salt; gradually add to batter mixture. Mix remaining ¼ cup flour with cranberries and nuts and fold into batter. Batter will be very thick. Spoon into a greased 10-inch fluted tube pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 65-70 minutes until cake tests done. Let stand 5 minutes before removing from the pan. Before serving, dust with confectioner's sugar. Serves 16.

Contributed by: Julie Reichenback, Egg Harbor, NJ



The *Ghoulish* Garden State

Your timbers may shiver and your knees may quake, but Fall is the perfect time to explore the lore of ghosts, goblins and creepy creatures found throughout the Garden State. Celebrate autumn in New Jersey with spine-tingling ghost stories, walking tours through haunted villages, dine in haunted restaurants or wind your way through a creepy maze.

So, where to go for a tantalizing and terrorizing scare?

Try Ocean City's Ghost Tour, a candlelight walking tour highlighting the tales of the unknown and eerie tales of the shore. Discover the secret that lies in the depths with the Sindia and what the dark shadow is that haunts the beaches in the dead of night. Tours, which begin at the corner of 9th St & Asbury Ave outside City Hall, are offered at 8:00 pm and take approximately 1 1/4 hours. For more information, email OceanCity@ghosttour.com, or phone 609-814-0199.

The charming Victorian resort of Cape May is filled with ghoulish and strange folklore from haunted houses to "spirited" beaches. There are several ghoulish options. Join Elaine's Ghost Tours for a supernatural journey through Victorian Cape May. This one-hour walking tour takes an entertaining and unnerving look at some of the most haunted sites in Cape May. Tours leave from the Haunted Mansion Restaurant nightly. For more information call, 609-884-4358. Or have dinner at the Haunted Mansion Restaurant, where a ghostly host will escort you to your own private table. What happens after you're seated is anyone's guess. Did that painting just move? Dinner for adults is \$29.95; children, \$17.95. Reservations are recommended. The Haunted Mansion Restaurant is open through October 31st. For reservations email info@elainesdinnertheater.com or call 609-884-1199.

Hop on the Ghosts of Cape May Trolley Tour for a 40-minute ride through the streets of Cape May. Your guide will relate the paranormal findings of Ghost Writer Craig McManus at various properties along the tour, which begins at the Washington Street Mall Information Booth. Adults \$10; children \$5 (ages 3-12). Or take the Historic Haunts Combo Tour which combines the Ghosts of Cape May Trolley Tour with a visit to the 1879 Emlen Physick Estate where you'll experience a home séance in a vintage 1890s room and learn of the Victorians' fascination with spiritualism. Adults \$20; children \$10 (ages 3-12). Offered at various times during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. For further information call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org. Wheelchair accessible trolley tours are offered, subject to availability.

Those with nerves of steel can also try these events:

Family by day, Fright by Night as the saying goes at Six Flags Great Adventure's Frightfest, September 29-October 29. Considered the largest Halloween party in the northeast, specially themed rides, shows and attractions are featured on weekends in October. For more information, visit www.sixflags.com/parks/greatadventure/ShowsAndEvents/index.html.

Depiero's Country Farm in Montvale will scare the daylights out of you beginning October 1. "Nightmares" features the Twisted Maniac Maze, a 28,000 sq. ft. outdoor maze with four terrifying trails. There's also the Mayhem FunHouse in 3-D and the Horror Museum, featuring props and wardrobe costumes -- even Freddy Krueger's screen worn sweater! Little ones can partake in the Children's Lights On Haunted Tour October 21, 22, 28 and 29 from 11:00 am- 3:00 pm. For more information on dates and times, visit www.night-mares.com.

On Saturday October 8, take a day-long tour (9am-4 pm) of Ghost Towns of the Pines. Step back in time and explore old walls and cellar holes of the Pine Barrens. Your guide is Barbara Solem, author of Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Bring a brown bag lunch and bottled water and enjoy a scenic picnic along the way. Adults only. \$35 per person and reservations are required. For more information, call 856-983-3329, Opt. # 1 for information and reservations.

Climb aboard the Haunted Nights Express at Pine Creek Railroad in Allaire State Park. This spooky nighttime ride through the haunted woods of Allaire features the frightening story of the wreck of Pine Creek #96. (May be too intense for younger children). Event dates are 10/13-10/14; 10/20-10/21; 10/27-10/28. For more information, visit www.njmt.org call 732-938-5524.

This October, the Historic Red Mill Museum Village in Clinton comes alive with the eerie sights and sounds of Halloween. Considered one of the biggest and safest haunted events in the area, a haunted hay ride also is included. Event dates are 10/20-10/21 and 10/27-10/28. For more information, visit www.theredmill.org or call 908-735-4101.

Schaefer Farms in Sergeantville puts on its scariest face during Schaefer's FrightFest. Experience the Trilogy of Terror, a 45-minute hair-raising hayride through 200 acres of fright; a Mass-Acre Maize and a Carnival of Chaos. Frightfest is best for children 10 or over. For more information, visit www.schaeferfarms.com.

For young swashbucklers, try Jenkinson's A SCARE-IUM at Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant Beach. A band of pirates have returned to the aquarium to search for their treasure. Follow maps and clues to beat the pirates to the treasure! Event dates are 10/20-10/21 and 10/27-10/28. For more information, visit, www.jenkinsons.com/aquarium or call 732-899-1659.



From October 21- 31, 2006, The ADVENTURE of the Halloween season sets sail with Adventure Aquarium's second-annual "Creep in the Deep." While wading through West African Rivers and exploring the ocean depths, families visiting Adventure Aquarium during "Creep in the Deep" will receive a treasure map to help guide them to the hidden "Creepy Creatures" of the land and deep sea in hopes of finding "treasure." They'll see a ghost ship coming into view through mist and appear to sail through the wall of the 550,000-gallon Shark Realm and into another dimension, dance with Adventure Aquarium mascots Belle and Bert wearing their very own Halloween costumes, see actual creepy creatures up-close and much more! For more information visit www.adventureaquarium.com.

On November 12, search New Jersey's Pinelands for the infamous Jersey Devil! This Jersey Devil Quest will take you down the sandy roads to find his haunts and stop along the way to meet other legendary characters. You'll wind up at the campfire for supper with renowned Jersey Devil hunter and storyteller Russell Juelg. Transportation and simple supper included. Adults only. \$55 per person and reservations are required. For more information, call 856-983-3329, Opt. # 1 for information and reservations.



Fall Fun on the

RiverLine

From cranberry festivals to historic walking tours to an exotic aquarium, ride New Jersey Transit's RiverLine this autumn to some of the Garden State's quaint historic towns along the southern portion of the Delaware River. The RiverLine provides an affordable mode of transportation and links conveniently from Trenton's Rail Station (accessible from New Jersey Transit and Amtrak).

Bordentown:

Filled with a rich history, Bordentown was home to many famous residents, such as Francis Hopkinson, signer of the Declaration of Independence; Thomas Paine, whose pamphlet *Common Sense*, advocated independence from Great Britain; Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon and Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross.

Get a feel for this small town on a free walking tour. In the Footsteps of Thomas Paine is featured on the 2nd Saturday of each month, June to November. For more information, call 609-324-9909. Experience great dining at local restaurants including Farnsworth House, Toscana Restaurant and Jester's Café. Shop in eclectic stores such as the Artful Deposit, a premium art gallery and Shoppe 202, filled with unique home accessories, and collectibles as well as the many bookstores throughout town.

Key Fall Events:

October 7-8	17th Annual Cranberry Festival
October 29	Ghostwalk - a one-hour guided tour to some of the town's most haunted locations. For information, call 609-298-3334.
October 29	Annual Halloween Parade
November 25	Holiday Tree Lighting at Crosswicks and Farnsworth Avenues
December 9	Historic Homes Tour (Self-guided). For information, call 609-298-0100.
December 16-17	Holiday Carriage Rides. For more information, call 609-298-1189.

To find out more about events in historic Bordentown, visit www.downtownbordentown.com.



Burlington:

Once the capital of West Jersey, Burlington is a quaint colonial town that has hosted some of the most powerful, spiritual and rich and famous from Benjamin Franklin and General Ulysses S. Grant to Captain James Lawrence and author James Fenimore Cooper.

Burlington City is a walk through history. On a guided walking tour, discover Burlington County's oldest house, the Revell House (where Benjamin Franklin once purchased gingerbread); visit Underground Railroad stops at the Burlington Pharmacy and Grubb Estate; see the oldest Episcopal Church in New Jersey at Old St. Mary's and stop by New Jersey's oldest library in continuous operation at the Library Company of Burlington.

Hearty appetites can be quenched at the elegant Café Gallery (restaurant and art gallery), overlooking the Delaware River; Legends Gourmet Pizza as well as Francesco's. Try tasty treats at Umm's Ice Cream Parlor, the Lamplighter Confectionary as well as Sticky Buns Bakery & Eatery. Unique shopping opportunities can be found at a variety of stores including the Burlington Antiques Emporium and Phillip's Furniture.

Key Fall Events:

Thursdays in October	Scarecrow Strolls and Open House
October 28-29	Historic Soldiers Weekend
October 28-29	Bury, Bury Burlington Ghost Tours
October 31	Halloween Hoopla
November 11	Veteran's Day Parade
November 24	Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
December 2	Holiday Parade
December 10	Holiday House Tours

For more information about events and tours visit www.tourburlington.org or call 609-386-4070/609-386-3993.

Riverton:

Gas light lamps and a Victorian flavor color this charming river town. Riverton was founded in 1851 by a group of ten Philadelphians who sought to find summer homes for their families. Famous residents have included Isaiac Clothier, who partnered with Justus Strawbridge to found Strawbridge & Clothier in Philadelphia. Joseph Campbell, for whom the soup company is named, lived in Riverton from 1872 until his death in 1900. The Hollingshead family lived in Riverton for many years. It was their son Richard who developed the first 'drive-in' movie, which opened in Camden.

Plenty of quaint shops and eateries can be found in Riverton. Get the scoop at Nellie Bly's Old Tyme Ice Cream Parlour (856-303-0707). Or try Victorian Tymes, with its distinctive specialty gift items and baskets (856-829-0620).



Zena's Patisserie and Café features European specialty pastries, gourmet breakfast and lunches. (856-303-8700). Not your cup of tea, try Goldleaf Antiques and New Leaf and Tea Room to shop antiques and have that delightful cup of afternoon tea! For more information, visit newleafgiftsandtearoom.com or call 856-829-8237.

For future events and tours visit: www.rivertondirectory.com/events.html or www.homestead.com/gaslightnews/

Camden:

A former shipbuilding center of the late 19th century, Camden is the birthplace of Campbell's Soup, the nation's first drive-in theatre and RCA's Little Nipper!

Today, the Camden Waterfront offers a variety of ways to spend a memorable day on the river and abounds with world-class cultural attractions, history and entertainment.

Visit The Battleship New Jersey (www.battleshipnewjersey.org), the most decorated battleship in U.S. Navy history. See how sailors lived, viewing their actual lockers and bunks and tour the Crew's Mess. Not far away experience the wonderment of the sea and other wildlife at Adventure Aquarium (www.adventureaquarium.com). Your trip to the Camden Waterfront should also include the 4-acre interactive Camden Children's Garden (www.camdenchildrensgarden.org) brimming with activities for kids of all ages.

Key Fall Events:

October 14	Mum Madness & Parade, Camden Children's Garden
October 21-31	Creep in the Deep, Adventure Aquarium
October 28-29	Goblins in the Garden, Camden Children's Garden
November 7	Election Day at Adventure Aquarium
November 11	Train Festival, Camden Children's Garden
November 25	Tree Decorating/Santa Arrives, Camden Children's Garden
November 25	Fishmas, Adventure Aquarium
December 25	Holiday Lights (Fridays/Saturdays in December) Camden Children's Garden



NEW JERSEY'S

Fabulous Fall Finery

The brilliant transformation of New Jersey's lush green landscape to the vibrant hues of copper orange and deep crimson fill the air with crispness found only in the Garden State. Fall is a breathtaking time to discover the fabulous finery that decorates the state's great outdoors in a wonderful palette of colors from the northwest corner of New Jersey to its southernmost tip in Cape May.

This is the perfect time for a weekend getaway to enjoy the festival of colors. With a near endless array of places to go and things to do, embark on an outside adventure, hike numerous trails nestled in the heart of the state, or canoe through lakes and streams or simply absorb the beauty of our stunning mountains, babbling brooks and wandering rivers.


With over 200 beautiful bed and breakfast inns dotted throughout New Jersey offering special packages, visit Preferred Inns of New Jersey at www.njinns.com to plan your weekend getaway or quiet escape from the hustle and bustle of the daily grind.

Great Viewing Spots:

High Point State Park: Nestled deep in Sussex County is the highest point in New Jersey. At 1,803 feet above sea level, the majestic overlook at High Point State Park provides a breathtaking view of fabulous fall foliage that covers three states -- Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. With 11 named and marked trails in addition to a stretch of the Appalachian Trail, High Point State Park offers superb trails for hikers as well as quiet spots for campers and anglers. After an active day, relax at the quaint Apple Valley Inn in Glenwood. (www.applevalleyinn.com.) or rejuvenate at the Mineral Hotel & Spa at the Crystal Springs Resort (www.crystalgolfresort.com) in Vernon.

Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area: Famous for its scenic beauty – from waterfalls to rural vistas, the Delaware Water Gap is a mile wide from New Jersey's Mount Tammany (1,527 feet) to Pennsylvania's Mount Minsi (1,463 feet). It features nearly 70,000 acres of land along the Delaware River's New Jersey and Pennsylvania borders. You'll also want to visit historic Millbrook Village, a recreated 1800's community which comes to life the first weekend in October during Millbrook Days. For more information on Millbrook Days, call 908- 841- 9531. Peters Valley Crafts Center in Layton, which is nationally recognized for its fine crafts is also a worthwhile stop. Visit www.pvccrafts.org for additional information. Unwind from the day's events at The Inn at Millrace Pond (www.innatmillracepond.com) in the Moravian Village of Hope or enjoy the private Moravian cottage of the Alexander Adams Homestead (www.alexanderadamshomestead.com) in Blairstown.





Wawayanda State Park: Quiet charm amidst a rural backdrop aptly describes the appeal of Wawayanda State Park (otherwise known as the land of “winding, winding water”) in Sussex County. The top of Wawayanda Mountain offers sensational fall views. Its many natural marvels attract hikers, rock climbers and campers with its forested hills and steep mountains. There are more than forty miles of trails marked in the park for outdoor enthusiasts, including the 1,325-acre Bearfort Mountain Natural Area. A twenty-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail also runs through the park. After an active day, enjoy the Victorian highlights of Alpine Haus (www.alpinehausbb.com) located in Vernon or the slopeside location of the new Appalachian at MountainCreek (www.mountaincreek.com), also in Vernon.

Allamuchy Mountain State Park: Several miles of trails crisscross through the forests and marshlands of the park located in Hackettstown. The Musconetcong River, with some of the best trout fishing in the state, also winds its way through Allamuchy Mountain State Park. Waterloo Village (www.waterloovillage.com), a restored 19th century village located on the banks of the Morris Canal, contains a working mill complex with gristmills and sawmills, a general store, blacksmith shop and several historic houses. After a busy day, settle in at the Whistling Swann Inn (www.whistlingwanninn.com) in Stanhope or the scenic retreat of the Inn at Panther Valley (www.panthervalleyinn.com) located in Allamuchy.

Delaware & Raritan Canal Park: With its 19th-century bridges, bridge-tender houses, and cobblestone spillways, the park runs through five counties -- Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset. In fact, these counties comprise one of central Jersey’s most popular recreational corridors for canoeing, jogging, hiking, bicycling, fishing and horseback riding. The canal and towpath are part of the National Recreational Trail System. If you visit Delaware River towns such as Stockton and Lambertville, you’ll run into the Delaware & Raritan Canal Park. The main canal passes the Port Mercer through the charming village of Griggstown to Blackwells Mills, ending up in New Brunswick. Canoes can be rented at Griggstown and Princeton from private concessionaires. Try the wooded hill setting of Chimney Hill Farm Estate (www.chimneyhillinn.com) in Lambertville for respite from the day’s activities or the stone manor of the Woolverton Inn (www.woolvertoninn.com) in Stockton.

Washington Crossing State Park: Steeped in Revolutionary War history, Washington Crossing State Park is a great fall getaway and history lesson wrapped-in-one! Near Trenton and Princeton, the park is where General George Washington crossed the icy Delaware and where his march to Trenton began. The Washington Crossing Visitor Center Museum contains exhibit galleries that explore the many facets of America’s revolutionary conflict with an emphasis on The Ten Crucial Days from December 25, 1776 through January 3, 1777. The park also contains wonderful trails and wildlife habitats. Many bird species winter in the park, creating a perfect location for bird observation year round. After a busy day of history and nature, stay at the historic Nassau Inn (www.nassauinn.com) in Princeton or the trademark Peacock Inn (www.peacockinn.com), also in Princeton.

Brendan T. Byrne State Forest: The fresh scent of pine greets visitors to Brendan Byrne State Forest (formerly Lebanon State Forest). Hikers can follow the sandy trails and roads that crisscross the forest. Pure, iron-rich streams flow through acres of swampy land covered with Atlantic white cedar. The park also contains Whitesbog Village, the 19th and 20th-century cranberry and blueberry producing community founded in the 1870s by Joseph J. White. In fact, the blueberry bush was developed in Whitesbog by Elizabeth White. After a day of hiking, kick back on the Dancer Farm Bed and Breakfast Inn (www.dancerfarm.org) in New Egypt, a 250 acre working farm, which trains and boards horses. Or try the JD Thompson Inn (www.jdthompsoninn.com) in Tuckerton, which borders the Pine Barrens.

Parvin State Park: Located in the southwestern part of New Jersey, Parvin State Park's history is as diverse as its wildlife. Situated on the edge of the Pine Barrens, the park not only has pine forests typical to the area but also a swamp hardwood forest. Thundergust Lake, Parvin Lake and Muddy Run are popular for fishing and boating. Parvin State Park still contains remains of ancient Indian encampments. The park once served as home for the Civilian Conservation Corps (1933 to 1941), a summer camp for the children of displaced Japanese Americans (1943), as well as a POW camp for German prisoners (1944). Relax at the elegant Founders Inn (www.thefoundersinn.com) in Glassboro.

Wharton State Forest: Encompassing parts of Burlington, Camden and Ocean counties, Wharton State Forest is the largest single tract of land within the New Jersey State Park System. Rivers and streams provide the perfect fall setting for canoeing, hiking mountain biking and horseback riding. A major section of the Batona Trail runs through Wharton and the fields are ideal for wildlife observation, including bald eagles, ospreys, great blue herons, fox and deer. Wharton State Forest is also the site of Batsto Village, a former bog iron and glassmaking industrial center from 1766 to 1867. After a tiring day, relax at the Colonial Inn (www.colonialinnsmithville.com) near Smithville or The Tuscany House Hotel (www.renaultwinery.com) on the grounds of the Renault Winery in Egg Harbor.

Additional information on New Jersey state forests and parks can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/>.



JERSEY SHORE

Deja Vu

All Over Again

Experience the Jersey Shore this autumn, a time when New Jersey's "Second Summer" can be as much fun as its first. Beaches remain open, rates for accommodations are lower and the boardwalks become a lot less crowded. And, shore towns have prepared a full schedule of special events designed to make things exciting on autumn weekends.

Victoriana abounds in the National Historic Town of Cape May. Visitors find Cape May's charm surprisingly enchanting. In fact, the town's 600 Victorian era homes and buildings make up one of the largest existing collections of 19th Century architecture in America. The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (609-884-5404) offers trolley tours of its landmark buildings while offering an entertaining account of the town's reign as "Queen of the Seaside Resorts." Experience the 10-day Victorian Week extravaganza from October 6-15. This 34th annual event includes historic house tours, trolley tours and murder mystery dinners. For more information, contact www.capemaymac.org. If you're in tune with nature, visit during the peak fall migration period and participate in the New Jersey Audubon Society Observatory Autumn Weekend/The Bird Show in Cape May Point October 28-29. For more information, call 609-884-2736 or visit www.njaudubon.org/link/fallweekend.

Always fun and exciting, the Wildwoods continue to live up to their reputation as a pop-culture icon. This venerable Jersey Shore institution is renowned for its 1950s "Doo-Wop" architecture, where the happy-go-lucky attitude of the 50's reigns. Families trek the two miles of boards in ultimate bliss, enjoying carnival games, souvenir shops, food stands, water parks, roller coasters and five amusement piers! Composed of North Wildwood, Wildwood and Wildwood Crest, this five-mile stretch of white beaches have been voted among the best in the country by the Travel Channel. Boating enthusiasts can enjoy Sunset Lake Hydrofest Power Boat Race in Wildwood Crest September 30-October 1. For more information, call 609-886-8156 or visit www.sunsetlake.us. Or bring your bobbysocks on October 20 for Wildwoods Fabulous 50's Weekend – An island-wide celebration of the Wildwoods' role in the birth of rock-n-roll. Events include a record hop with Jerry Blavat, a street fair with live music a classic car show as well as an evening concert with James Darren. For more information, call 888-



729-0033 or visit www.fabfifties.com. Why wait for St. Patrick's Day to "be Irish for a day," as they say – the Irish Fall Festival (1.800.IRISH-91, www.cmcaoh.com) in North Wildwood, September 21-24, is a great way to celebrate Irish heritage, with classic Irish Dancing, Celtic music from traditional to contemporary, a piper competition, tempting Irish food, and of course, a refreshing pint along the way!

Of course, Atlantic City, remains "turned on" throughout the fall season. Famous for its bustling casinos, Atlantic City has plenty more to offer beyond the slot machines and gaming tables from world class dining to a kaleidoscope of shopping options. The Borgata (609-317-1000, www.theborgata.com) brings a culinary explosion to the beach, beginning with popular chef Bobby Flay's first foray into the steakhouse genre with Bobby Flay Steak. Wolfgang Puck's famous California cuisine debuts at Wolfgang Puck American Grille, and Michael Mina, Bon Appetit's 2005 Chef of the Year, brings seafood to a whole new level with the opening of SEABLUE. The fabulous new Pier at Caesars (609-345-3100, www.thepieratcaesars.com) brings exquisite shopping – Tiffany, Gucci, Hugo Boss, Louis Vuitton and others – plus The Show, a soul-stirring sound, light and water show. Discerning shoppers will find the labels they want – from The Gap to Guess, and from Coach to Calvin Klein, at The Walk, an open-air extravaganza of outlet and factory stores, dining and entertainment, including Jay Z's new upscale sports nightclub, The 40/40 Club.

After a busy day of shopping, wining and dining, you can step into one of Atlantic City's blissful, world-class spas for a relaxing treatment or a full package of salon services. Recognized by Vogue, In Style, and Oprah Magazine for marrying innovative treatments and products with elegant design, the ultra-cool bluemercury spa at the Tropicana Casino and Resort brings the nation's hottest spa concept to The Quarter, with oxygen facials, therapeutic couples massage, and a special selection of signature luxury body treatments designed by bluemercury. Don't miss the Atlantique City Holiday Megafair October 14-15. This is the largest indoor art, antique and collectables show in the world and exhibitors come from 40 states, plus Canada, Great Britain, Europe and the Orient. For more information, call 800-526-2724 or visit www.antlantiquecity.com.

Ocean City:

The seaside resort of Ocean City is more than 125 years old, yet it has been living up to its claim for generations as "America's Greatest Family Resort." Carving a niche in the ideal family vacation, Ocean City's eight miles of pristine beaches and incomparable calendar of events combine to provide tons of fun for the whole family. The clean, well-maintained boardwalk comes alive with a family-friendly atmosphere for visitors of all ages to enjoy. October 6-9, enjoy Indian Summer Weekend and savor the end of summer on Ocean City's Music Pier with great seafood and plenty of boardwalk fun. For more information, call 609-525-9300 or visit www.njoceancity.com.



Spring Lake:

The picturesque seaside town of Spring Lake offers its residents and vacationers an unhurried atmosphere of gracious living, which has made it a unique resort at the Jersey Shore for more than 100 years. Two miles of uncluttered beach and the longest non-commercial boardwalk in New Jersey add to the one-of-a-kind atmosphere of Spring Lake. Turn-of-the-century architecture borders the wide tree-lined streets, which surround a large lake. “Spring Lake” is named for the fountains of crystal clear water which emanates from a multitude of underground springs. Paths, shady nooks and rock gardens extend through the weeping willow lined shores of the lake and provide a peaceful spot for a quiet evening walk or browse the more than 60 shops and boutiques that adorn the town.

Long Beach Island (LBI):

Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay, a getaway to Long Beach Island offers a relaxing fall respite. This family-friendly shore town is colored with beautiful homes located just blocks away from both the beach and bay, offering easily accessible beaches and a wide variety of activities. Miniature golf courses and amusement rides are available all along the island. In addition, you can still crab and fish on Barnegat Bay, which is permitted at the end of every street. Dining features a unique beachfront restaurants with spectacular sunset views. At Chowderfest Weekend 2006 September 30-October 1 (www.chowderfest.com) on Long Beach Island, visitors will enjoy two days of food, music, and of course, their favorite clam chowder, creamy New England-style (white), or zesty Manhattan-style (red).

Restless travelers looking for something new can find a maritime adventure at the 7th Annual Lighthouse Challenge (www.njlhs.org/challenge/challenge.html), October 14-15, at various locations along the New Jersey state coastline. The event challenges intrepid visitors to visit all 11 accessible New Jersey lighthouses. This year, “night climbs” have been added at four lighthouses – Sandy Hook, Absecon, Cape May and Tinicum – so that guests will get the opportunity to see the lights in operation and climb the towers for nighttime views of the surrounding skylines. Somewhere along the way, even the most enthusiastic explorers will need to find a comfortable bed for the night, and chances are, where ever there is a lighthouse in New Jersey, there is an inviting Bed & Breakfast nearby. For a searchable listing of Inns and B&B’s, as well as itinerary ideas and fall packages and specials, explorers can visit Preferred Inns of New Jersey at www.njinns.com.



Fall Fun in the *Garden State*

SEPTEMBER

September 21-24: Irish Fall Festival, North Wildwood - Celebrate Irish heritage at this 4-day event filled with dancers, music and crafts. For more information, call 609-729-0075 or visit www.wildwoodsnj.org.

September 23-24: 24th Annual Ocean County Decoy & Gunning Show, Tuckerton - Enjoy the waterfowling heritage of the Barnegat Bay area with more than 400 exhibitors and vendors. For more information, call 609-971-3085 or visit www.oceancountyparks.org.

September 23-24: 30th Annual Apple Day at Terhune Orchards, Princeton - Join family and friends for this annual fall tradition that celebrates the Apple Harvest, Apple Cider, and Autumn. The Daisy Jug Band provides country, colorful entertainment and you can even make your own scarecrow or pick a basket of luscious apples! For more information, call 609-924-2310 or visit www.terhuneorchards.com.

September 23-October 22: Lindbergh & Hauptmann - The Trial of the Century - Experience history as it happened with a live reenactment of the famous kidnapping trial of Bruno Hauptmann presented at the fully-restored courtroom in the historic Hunterdon County Courthouse where it all took place. For more information, call 908-782-2610 or visit www.famoustrials.com.

September 24: 19th Annual Oktoberfest, Vernon - The mountains of Sussex County provide the canvass for this celebration at the Minerals Hotel, featuring Grammy-Award winning Jimmy Starr Orchestra, German delicacies and beer as well as a golf scramble. For more information, call 973-827-2222 or visit www.crystalgolfresort.com.

September 28-October 1: NY/NJ International Boat Show, Jersey City - Amidst the scenic skyline at Liberty State Park, this year's boat show will feature more than 300 boat and marine exhibitors. For more information, call 201-200-9800 or visit www.nynjboatshow.com.

September 29- October 1: 36th Annual Peters Valley Craft Fair, Augusta - The Sussex County Fairgrounds hosts this juried fair that features 175 exhibitors who demonstrate and sell high quality goods. For more information, call 973-948-5500 or visit www.petersvalley.org.



September 29- October 1: Thunder on the Beach, Wildwood - Prepare yourself for this monster truck race featuring seven trucks in their quest to become King of the Beach. For more information, call 609-523-8052 or visit www.njhra.com.

September 30: 9th Annual Leif Erikson Festival, Hackettstown - Celebrate the millennium anniversary of Leif Erikson's discovery of North America. For more information, call 732-388-3329 or visit www.vasaparknj.com.

September 30 -October 1: Civil War Weekend, Morristown - A weekend of Civil War history at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm. For more information, call 973-326-7645 or visit www.morrisparks.net.

September 30-October 1: Sunset Lake Hydrofest Power Boat Race, Wildwood Crest - Experience the excitement of powerboat racing featuring hydroplane and flatbottoms on the Bay at Sunset Lake. For more information, call 609-886-8156 or visit www.sunsetlake.us.

September 30-October 1: Chowderfest Weekend, Beach Haven/Long Beach Island - Calling all chowder-hounds! Get a taste of all the chowder you can eat at the annual Chowder Cook-Off Classic, as local restaurants compete to be 'King of Clams'. For more information, call 609-494-7211 or visit www.lbihelp.com.

OCTOBER

October 1: 26th Annual Cattus Island Nature Festival, Toms River – Enjoy this environmental fair with natural history programs highlighted throughout the day. Activities include van and boat tours, canoe trips, nature walks along with exhibitors, children's games and much more. For information, call 732-270-6960 or visit www.oceancountyparks.com.

October 6-9: Indian Summer Weekend, Ocean City – Savor the end of summer on Ocean City's Music Pier with great seafood and plenty of boardwalk fun. For more information, call 609-525-9300 or visit www.njoceancity.com.

October 6-15: 34th Annual Victorian Week, Cape May – This 10-day extravaganza includes historic house tours, murder mystery dinners, antiques and craft shows as well as Victorian fashion shows, glass blowing demonstrations and brass band concerts. For more information, call 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

October 7: Fall Block Party, Ocean City – Party with more than 400 crafters and food vendors on Asbury Avenue between 5th and 14th streets. For more information, call 609-525-9300 or visit www.njoceancity.com.

October 7: Highlands Oktoberfest, Highlands – From traditional Bavarian food and a live Oompa Band to dancers and authentic German beer, this fest has something for everyone. For more information, call 732-292-4713 or visit www.highlandsnj.com.

October 7: Fall Harvest Festival, Ocean Grove – This Fall street fair sports more than 90 arts and crafts vendors displaying and selling their wares. Live music, pony rides and pumpkin face painting for the kids are also available. For more information, call 732-774-1391 or visit www.oceangrovenj.com.



October 7-8: 17th Annual Cranberry Fest, Bordentown – The annual street fest on the streets of downtown Bordentown honors the cranberry. It also features the Miss Cranberry Fest Pageant as well as antiques, crafts and even a classic car show. For more information, call 609-298-0128 or visit www.downtownbordentown.com.

October 7-8: Millbrook Days, Hardwick Township – In the beautiful Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area, this weekend-long folklife festival highlights the 19th century crafts, building trade and agriculture of a small New Jersey farming village. For more information, call 570-588-2429 or visit www.nps.gov/dewa.

October 7-8: Festival of Fine Craft, Millville – Historic Wheaton Village provides the backdrop for this juried show of traditional and contemporary crafts of more than 160 artists. Craft demonstrations, plenty of kids activities and specialty foods are also offered. For more information, call 800-998-4552 or visit www.wheatonvillage.org.

October 7-8: Fall Family Fun Weekend, Princeton – Enjoy a day of family fun on the farm at Terhune Orchards. Pick your own apples and pumpkins, partake in pony and wagon rides, visit the Corn Stalk Maze and much more. For information, call 609-924-2310 or visit www.terhuneorchards.com.

October 7-8: Oktoberfest, Smithville – Amidst the quaint setting of Historic Smithville on Lake Meone, join 100 plus juried crafters plus an international food court. There's also live music, train rides and paddle boats. For more information, call 609-748-6160 or visit www.smithvillenj.com.

October 8: Fungus Fest, Morristown – Learn all about that famous fungus - the mushroom! Guided walks, identification of various mushroom forms, cooking demonstrations, slide shows and lectures. For more information, call 973-326-7600 or visit www.njmyco.org.

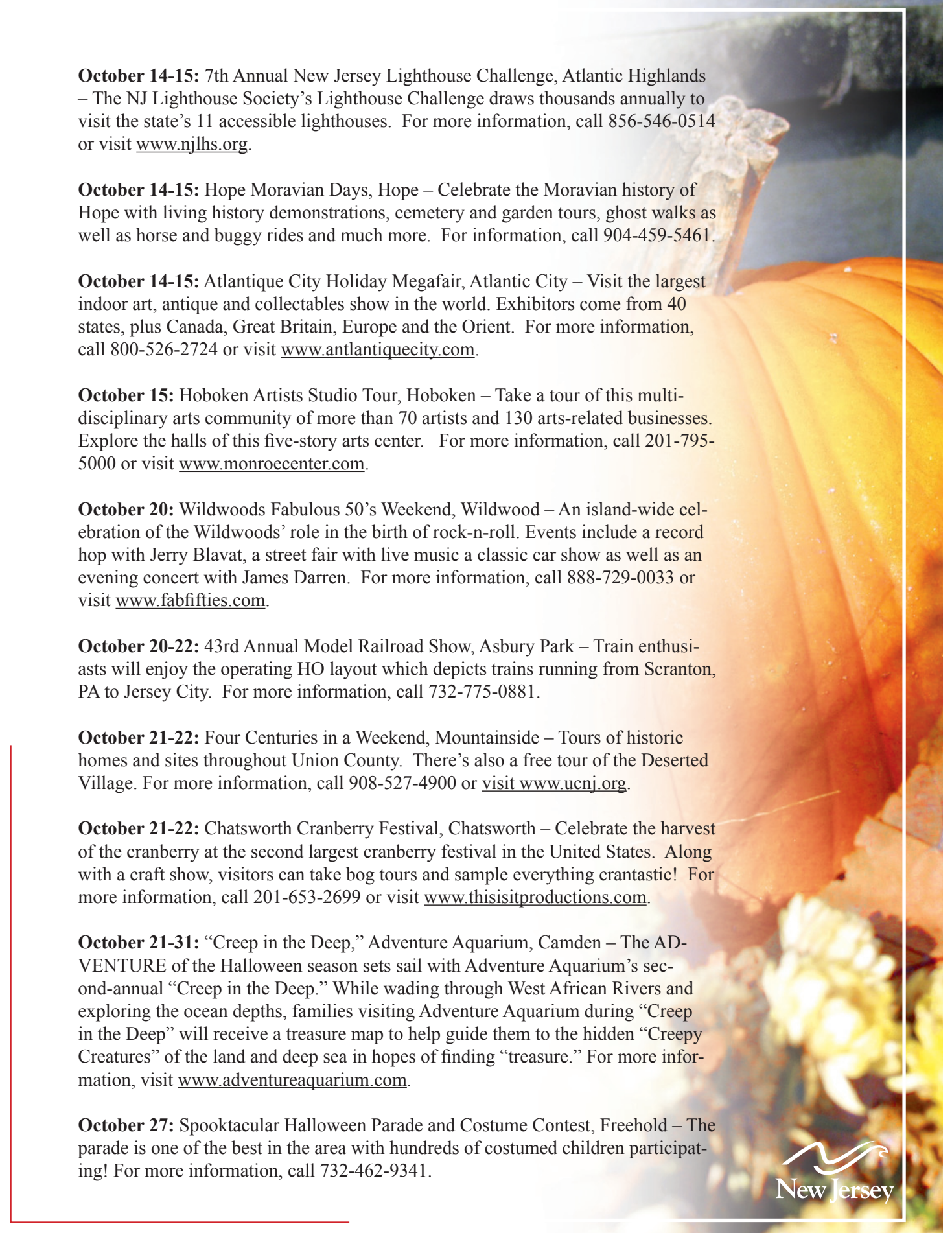
October 13-15: 4th Annual South Jersey Pumpkin Show, Millville (Cumberland County Fairgrounds)– Last year's pumpkin contest winner tipped the scales at more than 817 pounds!! There's also a Little Miss Pumpkin Show as well as plenty of baked goods and exhibits. For more information, call 856-765-0118 or visit www.sjpumpkinshow.com.

October 14: Witches and Wizards Ball, Mount Holly – The area's best outdoor costume ball and one of a kind dress up opportunity! For more information, call 609-914-0811 or visit mainstreetmountholly.com.

October 14: Mum Madness and Pumpkin Parade, Camden Children's Garden Camden – A salute to autumn and Mum Bear with crafts and entertainment all set in the blazing colors of the garden's beautiful chrysanthemums. For more information, call 856-365-8733 or visit www.camdenchildrensgarden.org.

October 14: Smithville's Irish Festival, Smithville - Join the merriment and enjoy the Celtic Market, which offers a variety of authentic wares. Plus there will be pipers, drummers and dancers! For more information, call 609-748-6160 or visit www.smithvillenj.com.





October 14-15: 7th Annual New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge, Atlantic Highlands – The NJ Lighthouse Society’s Lighthouse Challenge draws thousands annually to visit the state’s 11 accessible lighthouses. For more information, call 856-546-0514 or visit www.njlhs.org.

October 14-15: Hope Moravian Days, Hope – Celebrate the Moravian history of Hope with living history demonstrations, cemetery and garden tours, ghost walks as well as horse and buggy rides and much more. For information, call 904-459-5461.

October 14-15: Atlantique City Holiday Megafair, Atlantic City – Visit the largest indoor art, antique and collectables show in the world. Exhibitors come from 40 states, plus Canada, Great Britain, Europe and the Orient. For more information, call 800-526-2724 or visit www.antlantiquecity.com.

October 15: Hoboken Artists Studio Tour, Hoboken – Take a tour of this multi-disciplinary arts community of more than 70 artists and 130 arts-related businesses. Explore the halls of this five-story arts center. For more information, call 201-795-5000 or visit www.monroecenter.com.

October 20: Wildwoods Fabulous 50’s Weekend, Wildwood – An island-wide celebration of the Wildwoods’ role in the birth of rock-n-roll. Events include a record hop with Jerry Blavat, a street fair with live music a classic car show as well as an evening concert with James Darren. For more information, call 888-729-0033 or visit www.fabfifties.com.

October 20-22: 43rd Annual Model Railroad Show, Asbury Park – Train enthusiasts will enjoy the operating HO layout which depicts trains running from Scranton, PA to Jersey City. For more information, call 732-775-0881.

October 21-22: Four Centuries in a Weekend, Mountainside – Tours of historic homes and sites throughout Union County. There’s also a free tour of the Deserted Village. For more information, call 908-527-4900 or visit www.ucnj.org.

October 21-22: Chatsworth Cranberry Festival, Chatsworth – Celebrate the harvest of the cranberry at the second largest cranberry festival in the United States. Along with a craft show, visitors can take bog tours and sample everything crantastic! For more information, call 201-653-2699 or visit www.thisisitproductions.com.

October 21-31: “Creep in the Deep,” Adventure Aquarium, Camden – The ADVENTURE of the Halloween season sets sail with Adventure Aquarium’s second-annual “Creep in the Deep.” While wading through West African Rivers and exploring the ocean depths, families visiting Adventure Aquarium during “Creep in the Deep” will receive a treasure map to help guide them to the hidden “Creepy Creatures” of the land and deep sea in hopes of finding “treasure.” For more information, visit www.adventureaquarium.com.

October 27: Spooktacular Halloween Parade and Costume Contest, Freehold – The parade is one of the best in the area with hundreds of costumed children participating! For more information, call 732-462-9341.



October 27-28: Haunted Nights Express, Farmingdale – A spooky night-time ride through the haunted woods of Allaire. Hear the story of the wreck of the Pine Creek # 96 and prepare for fright! For more information, call 732-938-5524 or visit www.njmt.org.

October 28-29: NJ Audubon Society Observatory Autumn Weekend/The Bird Show, Cape May Point – Held during the peak of fall migration and encompassing three days of field trips, boat trips, indoor programs and workshops. For more information, call 609-884-2736 or visit www.njaudubon.org/link/fallweekend.

October 29: Fort Hancock Day, Fort Hancock - Commemorate Fort Hancock Establishment Day with reenactments and tours marking the U.S. Army's presence on Sandy Hook from the American Revolution through World War II. For more information, call 732-872-5970 or visit www.nps.gov/gate.

NOVEMBER

November 3-5: Sherlock Holmes Weekend, Cape May - Step back in time for a weekend of sleuthing, mystery and intrigue. Tours, performances and prizes are featured. Weekend packages are available. For more information, call 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

November 4-5: Winter Encampment, Clinton - Visit with soldiers of the 3rd NJ Vol. Infantry at the Clinton Mill as they construct a Civil War period cabin and prepare for the holidays. For more information, call 908-735-4101 or visit www.theredmill.org.

November 7: "Election Day" at Adventure Aquarium – Election Day is not just for grown-ups anymore! Now, Adventure Aquarium is offering all kids the chance to "cast their votes" in the main lobby of the aquarium! Hippo mascots will serve as election judges and will greet young "voters." For more information, visit www.adventureaquarium.com.

November 10-12: 26th Cape May Jazz Festival - The festival celebrates the sounds of New Orleans. An all-week-end event of non-stop jazz beginning Friday at 8 p.m. and concluding on Sunday at 4 p.m. in Cape May Convention Hall. For more information, call 877-726-5299 or visit www.capemayjazz.org.

